

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SPECIAL SUMMARY NO. 3: TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY

1. US SHOULD REMAIN ALOOF FROM INDIAN SITUATION

EMBASSY NEW DELHI REPORTS PM GANDHI IS LIKELY TO REMAIN
IN OFFICE AND MAY TAKE FURTHER STEPS TO CONSOLIDATE
HER POSITION. IT CONCLUDES THE US HAS NEITHER THE
CAPACITY NOR INTEREST TO EFFECT THE COURSE OF EVENTS
AND SUGGESTS A TENTATIVE PLAN TO LIMIT FRICTION WITH
THE GOI AND CAPITALIZE ON THE GOI'S APPARENT DESIRE
TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE US. SEVERAL
ACTIONS IT HAS ALREADY TAKEN INCLUDE:

--RESTRICTING CONTACT WITH MRS. GANDHI'S OPPONENTS AND
LIMITING MISSION TRAVEL OUTSIDE NEW DELHI AND THE
CONSULAR CITIES;

--REVIEWING ALL USG SPONSORED PROGRAMS IN OUTLYING
AREAS TO INSURE THEY CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY PRODUCED
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WITHOUT APPEARING INCONSISTENT WITH GOI ACTIONS;

--AVOIDING ANY ANALYSIS OR PREDICTIONS IN BACKGROUND
ONLY BRIEFINGS TO THE AMERICAN PRESS.

THE EMBASSY ALSO SUGGESTS THAT ALL PLANNED OFFICIAL TRAVEL TO INDIA BE CAREFULLY REVIEWED, AND THAT OFFICIAL COMMENT ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION BE LIMITED TO STATEMENTS THAT IT IS AN INTERNAL MATTER TO BE DEALT WITH BY THE INDIANS.

(SEE ALSO ITEM 2 , INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY)

2. LITTLE CHANGE IN VIENTIANE

EMBASSY VIENTIANE REPORTS THERE WAS LITTLE CHANGE AT ANY OF THE THREE OCCUPIED MISSION FACILITIES JUNE 29.

--AT THE OCCUPIED GSO COMPOUND, THE MAIN ISSUE APPEARS TO BE THE PROTESTORS'SUSPICION OF UNIVERSAL AMERICAN ENTERPRISES, WHICH HAS A MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH THE EMBASSY.

--CHARGE CHAPMAN IS TRYING TO FIND THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE ROYAL AIR LAO BOARD) TO DISCUSS THE CLAIM OF THE ROYAL AIR LAO WORKERS WHO WANT SEVERANCE PAY COMPARABLE TO THAT RECEIVED BY FORMER USAID EMPLOYEES, AND HAVE SAID THAT THEY WILL APPEAR AT THE EMBASSY JUNE 30.

--22 EMPLOYEES REMAIN IN VIENTIANE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IT IS STILL NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE EVENTS OF JUNE 28-29 ARE THE BEGINNING OF A CAMPAIGN OF PRESSURE ON THE EMBASSY ITSELF, OR SIMPLY ANOTHER LAO HAPPENING.

3. LAOS: PHOUMI TO RETURN TO VIENTIANE?

DURING A CONVERSATION WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, CHARGE CHAPMAN INDICATED THAT HE HAD HEARD REPORTS THAT FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUMI WOULD RETURN TO VIENTIANE JUNE 30.

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4. THAILAND

A. HOW STRONG IS KHUKRIT'S GRIP?

REVIEWING PM KHUKRIT'S PERFORMANCE, EMBASSY BANGKOK FINDS THAT HE HAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED THE ELECTORATE ON BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND STANDS A GOOD CHANCE OF DOUBLING HIS PARTY'S REPRESENTATION AT THE NEXT ELECTION. KHUKRIT HAS SHOWN CONSIDERABLY GREATER STATURE THAN ANY OF HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES AND HAS GAINED POINTS WITH THE PUBLIC BY:

-- TAKING A STRONG STAND AGAINST ACTIVIST FORCES,

THEREBY REASSURING THE RIGHTISTS;

-- PROMOTING QUICK-RESULT PROGRAMS TO MAKE MONEY
AVAILABLE TO GROUPS OF VILLAGES IN RURAL AREAS AS WELL
AS POPULAR PROGRAMS IN URBAN BANGKOK;

-- CAPITALIZING ON THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT TO PUT
HIMSELF AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE NATIONALISTIC ISSUE;
AND

-- TRAVELING TO MALAYSIA, INDONESIA, AND NOW PEKING,
THEREBY ENHANCING HIS IMAGE AS A STATESMAN AND DEMON-
STRATING CONFIDENCE IN HIS POLITICAL SECURITY BY HIS
WILLINGNESS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

EMBASSYCOMMENT: WHILE THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A SERIES OF
POPULAR MOVES, THAILAND'S REAL PROBLEMS WILL REQUIRE MORE
UNITY OF PURPOSE THAN THE PRESENT COALITION GOVERNMENT CAN
MUSTER. THE NEAR SIMULTANEOUS BUDGET DEBATE AND RE-
TIREMENT OF ARMY GENERAL KRIT SIWARA LATE THIS SUMMER WILL
LIKELY BRING KHUKRIT'S NEXT MAJOR HURDLE.

B. ON THE EVE OF KHUKRIT'S CHINA VISIT

ON THE EVE OF HIS JOURNEY TO PEKING, PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT
NOTED THAT THE SINO-SOVIET RIVALRY LEADS PEKING TO WANT TO
"MAKE FRIENDS" WITH THAILAND AND ALSO PROVIDES COUNTRIES
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IN MAINLAND SOUTHEAST ASIA WITH SOME ROOM TO MANEUVER.
COMMENTING ON HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP, KHUKRIT SAID:

--HE WILL SIGN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH WAS PREVIOUS-
LY NEGOTIATED BUT HAS NO INTENTION OF OPENING EMBASSIES
IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

--HE DOES NOT BELIEVE CHINA WILL STOP SUPPORTING THAI
INSURGENTS MERELY BECAUSE THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE AGREED
TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

--THERE WILL BE RIVALRY FOR INFLUENCE IN THAILAND BET-
WEEN HANOI, FIRMLY IN THE RUSSIAN CAMP, AND THE PRC.

--WHILE THE DOMINO THEORY HAS PROVEN CORRECT IN INDO-
CHINA, THAILAND WILL NOT NECESSARILY FOLLOW AND MUST
BE TOUGH AND RUTHLESS IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD ITS
INDEPENDENCE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IN CONTRAST WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI,
ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO MAKE THE TRIP ALONE, KHUKRIT IS NOT
ABOUT TO RUSH INTO THINGS BUT CAN BE EXPECTED TO APPROACH
THAILAND'S NEW RELATIONSHIP IN A MEASURED WAY.

5. SOVIET SINOLOGISTS DISCUSS CHINA

IN MEETINGS WITH UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PROFESSOR ALAN
WHITING SOVIET SINOLOGISTS MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

--CHINA'S ANTI-SOVIET POLICIES DO NOT EQUATE TO A
PRO-U.S. STANCE.

--WHICHEVER FACTION (THE "OLD GUARD" OR THE "RADICAL
NATIONALISTS") EMERGES VICTORIOUS IN THE CURRENT
POWER STRUGGLE IN PEKING, IT WILL LIKELY SEEK BETTER
RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW.

--THE CHINESE HAVE NEITHER THE CAPACITY NOR THE
INTENTION OF THREATENING THE SOVIET UNION; RATHER
THEY ARE LOOKING TO THE SOUTH AND ARE SEEKING TO
SPREAD ANARCHY AND ESTABLISH PLIABLE REGIMES.

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--THE SINO-SOVIET BORDER PROBLEM COULD BE SETTLED
"ANY DAY" IF PEKING WOULD ONLY AGREE TO NEGOTIATE
SPECIFICS.

--THE CHINESE HAVE 150 NUCLEAR WARHEADS, BUT NO
"VERY ACCURATE" MEANS OF DELIVERY.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY FOLLOWS. INGERSOLL

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